

Message Text

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21

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6306

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT LOUIS 1056

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PFOR MP SE

SUBJECT: GOM TELLS SEYCHELLES PRIME MINISTER TO POSTPONE

HIS VISIT

1. ACCORDING TO THE LOCAL PRESS OF 30 NOVEMBER, THE MAURITIAN GOVERNMENT HAS REFUSED PERMISSION TO ALBERT RENE, PRIME MINISTER OF THE SYECHELLES, TO MAKE A "PRIVATE" VISIT TO MAURITIUS. THE GOM ADVISED RENE THAT HIS VISIT AT THIS TIME WOULD BE "INOPPORTUNE" BECAUSE THE COUNTRY IS IN THE MIDST OF PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS, BUT SAID THAT IT WOULD BE HAPPY TO WELCOME HIM FOR AN OFFICIAL VISIT IN THE NEAR FUTURE, THAT IS, AFTER THE ELECTIONS.

2. IN THE COURSE OF A PRESS CONFERENCE ON NOVEMBER 29 MINISTER JAGATSINGH, THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE LABOR PARTY, DENOUNCED THE "INTERFERENCE" OF A NEIGHBORING COUNTRY IN THE MAURITIAN AFFAIRS. HE MADE SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO THE "PRIVATE" VISIT THAT MR. RENE WAS PLANNING TO MAKE HERE. JAGATSINGH'S PAPER, THE NATION, REPORTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS CONVINCED MR. RENE HAD THE INTENTION OF BRINGING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO A CERTAIN POLITICAL PARTY, NAMELY THE MAURITIAN MILITANT MOVEMENT. THE PAPER SAID THAT RENE IS WELL KNOWN IN THE DIPLOMATIC WORLD AS "MOSCOW'S MAN" IN THIS PART OF THE INDIAN OCEAN. THE NATION SAID THAT

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RENE WOULD BE BRINGING FINANCIAL HELP TO A PARTY THAT HAS

ALREADY RECEIVED FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM A COMMUNIST POWER.
JAGATSINGH WAS QUOTED AS DESCRIBING RENE'S INTENTION TO VISIT
HERE DURING THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN AS "GROTESQUE".

3. ALL THE PAPERS REPORT THA THE GOVERNMENT HAS ORDERED STRICT
MEASURES TO BE TAKEN AT THE AIRPORT AND IN THE PORT TO PREVENT
THE "ILLEGAL ENTRY OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE". ACCORDING TO ONE PAPER,
MR. RENE WAS INFORMED BY TELEPHONE OF THE INADVISABILITY OF HIS
VISITING HERE AND HIS RESPONSE WAS TO SLAM DOWN THE RECEIVER.
THE SAME PAPER SAID THAT RENE IS KNOWN TO BE A VERY CLOSE FRIEND
OF PAUL BERENGER, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE MARXIST PARTY, THE
MAURITIAN MILITANT MOVEMENT. THE MMM PAPER, LE MILITANT, STRONGLY
CRITICIZED THE GOVERNMENT FOR PREVENTING THE VISIT OF MR. RENE.
IT SAID THE GOVERNMENT ACTION RAN COUNTER TO THE "STRUGGLE
OF THE PEOPLES OF THE INDIAN OCEAN AND AFRICA AGAINST THE MILITARI-
ZATION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN."

4. THE LEADER OF THE PMSD, GAETAN DUVAL, ALSO CRITICIZED THE
GOVERNMENT'S ACTION AS BEING UNJUSTIFIED AND INCOMPATIBLE WITH
THE GOOD RELATIONS EXISTING BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. DUVAL SAID
IT WAS "INCONCEIVABLE" THAT THE SYECHELLES P.M. WISHED TO
SERVE AS AN INTERMEDIARY TO FINANCE THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN OF THE
"COMMUNISTS".

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